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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences (Special; 1989)

I. Introduction

The International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences (ISISC) is a private foundation established in 1972 and a non-governmental organization (NGO) recognized by a decree of the President of the Republic and by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Italy as a not-for-profit, postgraduate, educational and scientific institution devoted to studies, research the advancement of criminal sciences, including human rights. ISISC has consultative status with the Council of Europe and the United Nations and has a special cooperation agreement with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as one of the institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network. Between 2005 and 2008, ISISC carried out 141 activities attended by 8,860 experts, from over 90 different countries. Most of these activities were in cooperation with United Nations agencies; for this reason, they were quoted in a number of United Nations documents (see annual reports of the network to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2005/4, E/CN.15/2006/5, E/CN.15/2007/4 and E/CN.15/2008/8). Recognition of ISISC's reputation included the appointment of ISISC and its President as scientific advisor for the organization of the 2007 Rome Conference on Rule of Law in Afghanistan and the "2008 Management and Staff Training Award" awarded by the International Corrections and Prisons Association for ISISC projects in Afghanistan.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

***2005*:**

Afghanistan – The Provincial Justice Initiative, which focused on the implementation of the interim criminal procedure code in the provinces of Afghanistan; this involved, in a first phase, 144 participants from the provinces of Paktia, Kunduz and Balkh, and, in a second phase, 163 individuals from the provinces of Herat, Nangarhar and Badakshan. The technical assistance to the Afghan Counter-Narcotics Judicial Task Force project, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, involved 140 participants and entailed training and discussions on the new Afghan Constitution, the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime, and international instruments related to the fight against organized crime and drug trafficking.

Iraq – In February, ISISC hosted a seminar at its headquarters in Syracuse, Italy, for magistrates of the Iraqi Special Tribunal; the seminar addressed sophisticated forensic scientific investigation and relevant international legislation. In June and July, ISISC organized in Syracuse a seminar on truth-telling, reparations, memorializing, education and other post-conflict justice options for Iraq. In November, it organized a seminar entitled "The New Iraqi Constitution: Practical Aspects of Implementing Federalism".

Palermo Convention – In 2005, ISISC hosted two training seminars on international cooperation against transnational organized crime, terrorism and money-laundering under the programme of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto. The first seminar was attended by representatives of the Ministries of the Interior, Defence and Foreign Affairs of Egypt (February), while the second seminar addressed judges from the Palestinian Office of the

Public Prosecutor. Two seminars on international judicial and police cooperation were held in Tirana, Albania (February) and in Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (November), in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Other – In June, ISISC organized a seminar in Syracuse for the judges of the International Criminal Court within the framework of their judicial capacity-strengthening programme. At the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Bangkok in April, ISISC and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime organized a workshop on measures to combat terrorism. In June, ISISC organized a meeting of experts with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Terrorism Prevention Branch, which was aimed at drafting a manual for professionals on the implementation of the universal counter-terrorism instruments. Finally, in November, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Division for Treaty Affairs and ISISC organized in Syracuse an expert group meeting on the development of tools on mutual legal assistance and extradition, to address a revision of the model law on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

***2006*:**

Afghanistan – In 2006, the Provincial Justice Initiative reached over 150 justice operators in the provinces of Baghlan, Wardak and Faryab. Furthermore the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland invited ISISC to conduct an extensive capacity-building programme for the law enforcement officers responsible for investigations in the Afghan Counter-Narcotics Judicial Task Force. ISISC also embarked on a basic training project for penitentiary staff, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which was extended to 34 provinces.

Iraq – The Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Rule of Law and Justice in Iraq project, funded by the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the European Union Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq (EUJUST LEX), the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and with the support of all the key institutions of the Iraqi justice system, held five meetings, in which international experts worked in conjunction with Iraqi experts and national judicial institutions on the reform of the country's criminal justice system. A seminar on "The Judiciary in Iraq: Role, Competence and Perspectives for the Constitutional Review and Implementation Process" was organized in April, in partnership with UNAMI and UNDP. A seminar on domestic security in Iraq held in February addressed the fight against organized crime, drug trafficking, money-laundering and the implementation of human rights.

Egypt – Throughout 2006, ISISC coordinated a number of legal training seminars for Egyptian police officers, in cooperation with local authorities and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Cairo, which focused on the role of human rights in the course of investigations.

Other – In July, ISISC organized a working retreat in Syracuse for the judges of the International Criminal Court, on the participation of victims in proceedings and reparations to victims, both on economic and moral grounds.

***2007*:**

Afghanistan – In 2007, the Provincial Justice Initiative reached 127 justice operators in the provinces of Parwan, Ghazni and Jawzjan. In May 2007, ISISC was granted a UNDP fund for the implementation of the supporting rule of law within transitional Afghanistan through comprehensive training and public awareness activities project, which was conducted in the provinces of Herat and Balkh during six months. ISISC cooperated with the United Kingdom on conducting an extensive capacity-building programme, which consisted of three courses and involved 26 law enforcement officers responsible for investigations in the Afghan Counter-Narcotics Judicial Task Force.

Iraq – The final report of the Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Rule of Law and Justice in Iraq project, basically a set of guidelines and recommendations for a strategic, integrated plan for the future of the rule of law and criminal justice system in Iraq, was published and officially presented to the Iraqi institutions in Baghdad in March 2007. The Iraqi Judicial Integrity project, implemented on behalf of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, resulted in the adoption by the Supreme Council of Judges of the United Nations Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct, which was circulated to all of the 700 Iraqi judges.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – In 2007, ISISC was appointed as the mandated body supporting the scientific, administrative, and logistic functions of the "twinning" project between the Italian Ministry of Justice and the Public Prosecutor's Office of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The project provided assistance to the specialized Department for the Fight against Organized Crime and Corruption within the Public Prosecutor's Office of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, through a number of seminars and study tours in Italy and Europe (including at the headquarters of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna).

Other – In July, at the workshop on evidence, disclosure and protective measures, 10 judges of the International Criminal Court met with six international experts to discuss countering the crimes covered by the Statute of the Court.

***2008*:**

Afghanistan – In 2008, the Provincial Justice Initiative reached a total of 240 justice sector actors from the provinces of Laghman, Logar and Kapisa. Parallel capacity-building programmes for justice sector actors started in Ghor and in Kandahar, supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. In June 2008, a provincial initiative to implement the penitentiary regulations in the light of the penitentiary law, financed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime was initiated. In April, ISISC hosted a workshop on law reform in Afghanistan, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United States Institute of Peace. The discussion on the Afghan draft Criminal Procedure Code culminated in the drafting of recommendations.

Iraq – As part of a training programme for legal advisors to the Iraqi Ministry of Interior on international cooperation and management, financed by the United States Army, two seminars were held in Cairo in January and in May-June. The Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Rule of Law and Justice in Iraq project organized its last activity in May, namely a workshop on "Organized Crime: Forms, Challenges and Fighting Mechanisms", funded by the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – During 2008, the "twinning" project organized further training seminars in Skopje, a study tour and internships in Italy, and delivered a comprehensive analysis of the legislative framework of the country in the field of organized crime and corruption.

Other – A workshop was held in Rome in November to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the approval of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The project on fighting impunity and promoting international justice, co-financed by the EuropeAid office of the European Commission, aims to prepare global guidelines and an implementation manual to promote the struggle against impunity; support the development of integrated approaches to post-conflict justice; and link domestic strategies to the evolving role of the International Criminal Court. The reports, which target five different regions (Africa, the Americas, the Arab world, Asia and Europe), were presented to the international community at a conference in November, at the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG).

2. Kenya Tuitakayo: Citizens Coalition for Constitutional Change (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Aims and purposes of the organization: Kenya Tuitakayo: Citizens Coalition for Constitutional Change (4Cs Trust) is a national organization with a successful track record in popular constitutional reform, democratic constitutional governance and the rule of just law. It promotes a vision of a Kenyan society that upholds, practices and protects constitutionalism and democracy, where citizens participate in just governance; human rights are protected; gender equity is ensured; the interests of the disadvantaged are guaranteed; and a sustainable wholesome development is promoted. The mandate of 4Cs Trust is to empower Kenyan citizens to promote a just constitutional order in Kenya.

Changes in the Constitution: At the annual general meeting held at its headquarters in Nairobi in June 2006, the organization adopted **resolution MIN. AGM.7/06/06** amending its Constitution and changing the name from "Kenya Tuitakayo: Citizens Coalition for Constitutional Change" to "Kenya Tuitakayo: Citizens Coalition for Constitutional **Culture** (4Cs Trust)". It reduced the number of steering council members from 14 to nine and the number of co-chairs and trustees from five to three, and affirmed a one-third gender ratio. The changes were registered with the national registration authorities in Nairobi and await certification. The amendments will be sent officially to the Secretariat of the Committee on NGOs (the NGO Section/Department of Economic and Social Affairs) after certification. The amendments have resulted in a lean and more efficient system of governance at the organization. The changes also affected the strategic institutional and programmatic direction of 4Cs Trust and led to a review of its strategic plan 2003 to 2013 in June 2008. This review facilitated collaboration with other organizations and groups with similar mandates in the Eastern Africa region. The vision and mission of the organization is "a Kenyan society that upholds the culture of constitutionalism" and its mission now is "to empower citizens to cultivate, foster and defend a just constitutional order in Kenya".

Expanded areas of activities: The amendments to the Constitution of 4Cs Trust did not result in a substantial increase of or significant changes in the geographical distribution of the membership.

There was, however, a significant change in the scope and level of programme activities on issues of impunity, corruption, debt, climate change and national resource management. There was a substantial upward change in the amount of funding and funding sources.

Organizational affiliations: 4Cs Trust ratified the Charter of the National Civil Society Congress, an umbrella body of all civil society organizations in Kenya. 4Cs Trust is the current secretariat of the Congress.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The organization participated in the Commission on the Status of Women, in February each year at United Nations Headquarters, New York. Designated representatives attended sessions during the reporting period 2005-2008 and made oral contributions in civil society caucuses to advocate the adoption of enabling policies on women's participation in public life as a fundamental constitutional principle. 4Cs Trust co-organized the National Forum on Human Rights to discuss the theme "Towards a Human Rights State: Opportunities and Challenges" in August 2006 at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre in Nairobi, with the Kenya Human Rights Network, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and the Ministry of Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs of the Republic of Kenya. The Executive Director of the organization was the Rapporteur-General for the forum.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters:

4Cs Trust participated in a programme in collaboration with UNDP, to implement a national referendum education campaign and observe the November 2005 national referendum on the proposed new constitution for the Republic of Kenya. UNDP and 4Cs Trust made financial contributions to various projects, such as the 2007 national elections assistance programme. This included the promotion of voter education and elections observation through the Kenyan Elections Observations Forum, which was financed by UNDP and implemented by 4Cs Trust and other civil society organizations in Kenya. 4Cs Trust also participated in the Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation presided over by H.E. Dr. Kofi Annan, former United Nations Secretary-General, and supported by the African Union Panel of Eminent African Personalities. The aim of the Dialogue was to resolve the post-2007 general elections crisis caused by the disputed presidential election results, during which 1,300 citizens were killed and 660,000 were rendered internally displaced persons. The Executive Director of 4Cs Trust is the convenor of the civil society committee on the mediation process.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

4Cs Trust contributed to the achievement, in Kenya, of Millennium Development Goal **2: Achieve universal primary education,** Target 3: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling, through actions such as collaborating with other civil society organizations under the Elimu Yetu Coalition. The Coalition has contributed to increased enrolment in Kenyan schools, under the universal free primary education principle.

Activities in support of global principles: The following activities were observed in Nairobi: (a) International Women's Day, 8 March each year. 4Cs Trust has, since 2005, together with other local NGOs, made a financial contribution; (b) United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, 26 June. This has been observed by 4Cs Trust, in collaboration with the relevant institutions of the Kenyan Government, the Kenya Human Rights Commission and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, since 2005. In each case, the Executive Director of the organization, a torture and detention-without-trial survivor, shared experiences; (c) International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3 December, each year. 4Cs Trust facilitated three national forums for persons with disabilities; (d) Human Rights Day, 10 December, each year. The organization has, since 2005, participated in the observance of this Day, in various venues in Nairobi. The Executive Director has, on three occasions, been asked to make remarks. Statements by the Secretary-General of the United Nations are usually circulated.

3. National Council of Women of Malta
(Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Aims and purposes of the organization: NCW Malta is a national voluntary umbrella organization working to improve the lives and opportunities of women in society. NCW Malta works within the framework of the United Nations agenda for women, cooperating with women's organizations in Europe and worldwide, via the International Council of Women and the Commonwealth Women's Network. NCW Malta aims to improve the status of women and the well-being of society and to present a broad and comprehensive view of women's opinions on matters of national interest and cultural traditions, based on human rights in social, political and economic areas.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

NCW Malta would have participated more often in the United Nations sessions, if not for lack of funds. Also, information about international meetings and conferences generally arrives too late to raise the necessary funds.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

2006: NCW Malta carried out a study of a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) funded project on obstacles to the participation of women in decision-making positions, in collaboration with the National Statistics Office; this was followed by a conference at the Hotel Phoenicia in Valletta, in May, where the results of the study were discussed with all stakeholders.

2007: NCW Malta organized a course on women in political decision-making at the National Council of Women Centre in October-December.

2008: NCW Malta is currently organizing a UNESCO-funded project on the challenges of gender equality in the small States of Europe.

Major Initiatives undertaken during the period under review: NCW Malta promoted the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, including the Millennium Development Goals and matters arising under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women through policy resolutions adopted at NCW Malta annual general meetings, national seminars organized by NCW Malta and submissions and reports to the Maltese Government in response to Government national budgets.

NCW Malta chaired working groups and lobbied for: (a) The Domestic Violence Act and relevant Commission, which came into force on 28 February 2006. NCW Malta is represented on the Commission; (b) The Voluntary Organizations Act, which came into force on 11 December 2007, and the Voluntary Organization Council held in October 2008. NCW is represented on the Council.

Public-Private Partnership – NCW Malta:

2005: The NCW Centre opened a community technology learning centre in June, to train women in computer literacy. NCW Malta participated in a project entitled "Partner in Learning on the Stage of Life", a project on social inclusion that included a working session in Malta for all stakeholders. NCW Malta also organized a Commonwealth People's Forum at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta in November, in Valletta, on the theme "Networking the Commonwealth for Development".

2006: NCW Malta partnered with the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality on a Transnational EQUAL Project called "Gender Role" from April to November, providing training for people over 40 years old in employability skills in September. NCW Malta representative, member of the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels was rapporteur of the EU Roadmap for Gender Equality 2006-2010.

2007: NCW Malta partnered with the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality on the project "Mosaic — One in Diversity" as part of the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All. It participated in the Seventh Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers' Meeting in Fiji in June 2004, at which the Ministers developed a Plan of Action for Gender Equality, and in the Eighth Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers' Meeting in Kampala, in June, at which the Plan was evaluated. At the Eighth Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers' Meeting, NCW facilitated a gender workshop on financing gender equality for development and democracy. It took part in the 2007 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kampala and in the Commonwealth People's Forum on realizing people's potential. Lastly, it participated in an Anna Lindh Foundation training programme for youth on human rights education for enhancing intercultural dialogue with young people in Budapest. The information was disseminated through NCW's newsletter and website. NCW is a member of the Anna Lindh Foundation network. An NCW representative served as rapporteur on the promotion of women's entrepreneurship in the EUROMED region, at the European Economic and Social Committee.

2008: In November, NCW Malta participated at a conference in London on the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the Human Rights Council and how NGOs should engage in the country review.

Seminars and presentations organized by NCW Malta for members and affiliated organizations: (a) **2005:** an international seminar entitled "Gender and the Digital Divide". This was part of an anti-poverty campaign aimed at empowering women by teaching them new employability skills. The seminar was held at the Mediterranean Conference Centre; (b) **2006:** the NCW annual conference, the theme of which was "Equal Opportunities: The Agenda for Female Entrepreneurship", held in St. Julian's, Malta, in November. NCW Malta, in cooperation with Amnesty International Malta, organized the Stop Domestic Violence Conference in December at the University of Malta, which highlighted the need for adequate legal, political, social and psychological instruments to deal with this problem; (c) **2007:** NCW Malta organized a seminar on the effects of separation on the family at its Centre in July, highlighting the need for adequate support; (d) **2008:** NCW Malta, in collaboration with the Russian Cultural Institute, held a seminar on sustaining family values in a changing world — the family and demographic change in November, in Bugibba, Malta. NCW Malta held three sessions at the NCW Centre in Blata l — Bajda in April, September and November, on environmental issues, especially gender and climate change, with the participation of experts.

Other reports and submissions to the Maltese Government: Resolutions approved at annual general meetings were presented for consultation to the Government, the leader of the Opposition, political parties and relevant authorities.

The following activities were held in Sliema, Malta: (a) **2005:** NCW Malta annual general meeting: trafficking of women in the context of migration; mainstreaming Gender Equality; juvenile delinquency and violence; (b) **2006:** NCW Malta annual general meeting: further measures for equal representation of men and women in decision-making; children at risk; preventive health for all ages; integrating young people in society and working life; (c) **2007:** NCW Malta annual general meeting: addressing gender equality from men's perspective; promoting entrepreneurship for women; early detection of domestic violence; (d) **2008:** NCW Malta annual general meeting: resolutions: equal pay for work of equal value; children as indirect victims of domestic violence; environment and sustainable development; school absenteeism. NCW advocated for a gender sensitive budget.

4. Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Aims and purposes of the organization: Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development (NFSD) is committed to "development with a human face" and wants to help promote the emergence of a lasting socio-economic environment where human rights are guaranteed, basic needs are satisfied, and there is maximum possible equality of opportunity and social justice for all.

Firstly, NFSD supports and develops pioneering health projects in developing countries, aimed at achieving specific goals in the fight against poverty and disease and at inspiring and improving development policy and practice. Secondly, it promotes the corporate responsibility debate on the basic principles of a fair division of responsibilities and duties in society for the sustainable welfare of all. Thirdly, through its positioning as a foundation with close corporate ties, the Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development plays a mediating and balancing role between the private sector, politics and civil society, and facilitates dialogue.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The President and Chief Executive Officer of NFSD was appointed Special Advisor to the Secretary-General for the United Nations Global Compact from 2005 to 2007. NFSD supported and advised the company Novartis and other corporations on conceptual matters and issues regarding the principles and their realization of the United Nations Global Compact. NFSD worked with the World Health Organization (WHO) to administer and distribute drug donations made by the company Novartis including, since 2000, the donation of a worldwide supply of multi-drug therapy for the treatment of leprosy and, since 2003, the donation of 500,000 treatments against tuberculosis in the United Republic of Tanzania.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals: All our work was guided by the health-related MDGs (Goals 4, 5, 6 and 8):

Practical project and programme work in the health sector: (a) NFSD partnered with Professor Jeffrey Sachs from Columbia University's Earth Institute on the Millennium Villages project. In 2007, the Foundation financed one of the Millennium Villages in the United Republic of Tanzania, the Ilolangulu Village. For a five-year period, the Novartis Foundation will invest in the village's transition from subsistence farming to self-sustaining commercial activity. In addition, NFSD donated the artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) for the treatment of malaria to all Millennium Villages; (b) In the Republic of Mali, NFSD established a health insurance scheme in the country's largest rural community. From the outset, the quality of curative and preventive health services was also improved. The pilot project is regarded today as a reference for the whole Republic of Mali; (c) In collaboration with NGOs in Southern and Eastern Africa, NFSD developed and scaled up the so-called Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative for children affected by AIDS, conflict and poverty. This Initiative trained course leaders, developed manuals and lobbied Governments to mainstream psychosocial support for orphaned children. The Initiative reached over 3 million children from 2007 to 2008 and aims to reach 5 million by 2011; (d) Together with the United Republic of Tanzania's Ministry of Health, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Swiss Tropical Institute, NFSD supported the Tanzanian Training Centre for International Health in Ifakara, a centre aimed at strengthening human resources in the health-care sector; (e) With its Comprehensive Leprosy Care Programme in the Republic of India, NFSD helped to relieve the suffering of people damaged by leprosy through the provision of care and healing and to improve their health and quality of life through reconstructive surgery and economic rehabilitation; (f) The patient-centred treatment of tuberculosis in the United Republic of Tanzania, developed by NFSD, increased the compliance of tuberculosis patients, since they can choose to be treated in the health centre or at home; (g) The ACCESS project of NFSD is devoted to studying and improving access to effective malaria treatment in the United Republic of Tanzania. The project has also developed a generic model for the problems of access, which can be equally applied to other countries and diseases.

Think-tank activities: (a) NFSD was a founding member of the Business Leaders' Initiative on Human Rights; (b) Through numerous publications, lectures and seminars, the Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development contributes to research on development-related issues and formulates

concepts and strategies for corporate responsibility, the right to health, access to health care and sustainable development.

Policy dialogue and networking: (a) To strengthen the development policy dialogue between the private sector, NGOs, research institutions and Government bodies, NFSD organized an annual international symposium. Well-known scientists, politicians and experts such as Jeffrey Sachs, Mary Robinson and Desmond Tutu, have participated in this public event to examine and discuss a development policy issue from various angles.

5. Synergos Institute
(Special; 1997)

I: Introduction

Aims and purposes of the organization: The Synergos Institute and its partners mobilize resources and bridge social and economic divides to reduce poverty and increase equity around the world. Synergos works through partnerships, networks and knowledge sharing. Bringing together the most influential people and institutions in government, business and civil society, as well as poor and marginalized communities, who are usually left out of the process, Synergos helps every part of society work together to create long-term progress. In addition, Synergos shares the knowledge learned through its work, so others can benefit from its experience. Since its founding over 20 years ago, Synergos has worked in over 30 countries and regions.

Significant changes in the organization: (a) Programme Expansion: From 2004 to 2008, Synergos remained true to its overall mission, while expanding its programmes geographically. In cooperation with Unilever and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Synergos launched the Partnership for Child Nutrition in India (see Part II for more information). In cooperation with the Government of Canada and local groups, it began an Aboriginal Leadership Initiative to improve the well-being of indigenous communities in Canada. In cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), it began the Arab World Social Innovators Programme, which supports social entrepreneurs in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Palestine. In Namibia, together with the Government, it began a Public Health Leadership and Systems Innovation Initiative;
(b) Administrative Changes: At the administrative level, Synergos created legally-constituted affiliates in Canada and South Africa. As at the end of 2008, the organization had offices in New York City, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Cape Town, South Africa and Windhoek.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Synergos did not substantively participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council or in major United Nations meetings or conferences; rather, its work in 2005-2008 focused on the in-country programmes described below, including work with UNICEF, that support the achievement of several Millennium Development Goals.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Synergos worked with UNICEF-India, Unilever and Indian institutions to create sustainable, systemic solutions to child undernutrition in India, through a partnership for child nutrition. This effort engaged entities such as the Mother-Child Health & Nutrition Mission of Maharashtra, the Department of Women and Child Development of Maharashtra, Hindustan Lever, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Tata Group and civil society organizations such as the Self-Employed Women's Association, CARE India and the Aga Khan Health Services in developing new, more sustainable approaches to the problem of child undernutrition. The effort, which began in late 2004, resulted in programmes in urban and rural portions of Maharashtra and the creation of a local organization — the Bhavishya Alliance — in 2006, to move the effort forward in the future. Synergos provided technical and staffing support to the overall initiative and to the Bhavishya Alliance in this period.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Synergos programmes focused on **Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger:** In 2005, these efforts included the Partnership for Child Nutrition described above as well as: (a) Work with local groups in Ecuador, Mexico, Mozambique, South Africa, Thailand, the United States and Zimbabwe to strengthen locally-controlled community development foundations that can fund sustainable development programmes and other civil society groups; (b) Efforts in cities in Brazil to engage poor local communities in urban development programmes, so that their needs are better addressed.

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality and Goal 5: Improve maternal health: (a) Partnership for Child Nutrition in India described above, with interventions directed at both children and their mothers; (b) African Public Health Leadership and Systems Innovation Initiative begun in 2008, in which Synergos is working with the Government of Namibia to improve the performance of that country's health system; (c) In South Africa and Mozambique, Synergos has been working with local non-profit organizations to strengthen local capacity to help orphans and other children affected by the HIV/AIDS crisis; (d) In addition, between 2005 and 2008, Synergos helped create a global partnership of businesses, governments and civil society organizations working towards sustainable food production that is helping address **Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability**. The Initiative engaged businesses including General Mills, Rabobank, Shell, Sysco, Unilever, Government organizations from Brazil and the Netherlands, as well as from the European Commission, the International Finance Corporation, the World Bank and civil society organizations such as Consumers International, Oxfam, The Nature Conservancy, the World Wildlife Fund, and the Charles Léopold Mayer for Human Progress, King Baudouin and W. K. Kellogg Foundations. The partnership conducted transnational projects on issues such as sustainable trade and climate change and undertook country-level projects with, for example, the Government of Guatemala, to assess and expand its approach to addressing rural agricultural poverty. In Brazil, it shared knowledge by preparing a guide to sustainable food-purchasing practices, 10,000 copies of which were distributed to food service professionals. This partnership is now an independent institution.

6. Tamana Association
(Special; 2005)

I: Introduction

Tamana Association is a non-profit, non-governmental charitable organization recognized by the Union Government of India and the State Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. Within the ambit of United Nations human rights declarations and conventions, Tamana Association creates services and a culture of rights for individuals with disabilities.

Aims and objectives of the organization: To provide the best rehabilitative services to children and adults with developmental and multiple disabilities, minimal brain damage and autism; to provide a holistic developmental education to these individuals in order to effect optimum adult habilitation and render them happy, useful and integrated members of society. In order to ensure the specific objectives of society: (a) Provide special education, therapy and counselling to children and their families; (b) Provide legal advocacy services and ensure full and equal participation by persons with disabilities in social life and development; (c) Contribute to the training of personnel in the field of special education and maintain a motivated, dedicated and quality-conscious team of professionals; (d) Introduce relevant technology to enhance the effectiveness of special education; (e) Conduct research in key areas of special education and training; (f) Create and enhance greater public awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with special needs and disseminate information on the United Nations guidelines on this issue.

New affiliations: In 2006, the University of Washington Autism Centre in Seattle, the United States, entered into a cooperation commitment with Tamana to provide services for individuals with autism and their families in India. Scientists at the Autism Centre provide consultation to Tamana on autism research studies. Two such studies are currently being conducted in consultation with the Centre. Avenues for setting up distance learning through web-based seminars are being explored. The Tamana team was invited to the Autism Centre for training in May 2007. Scientists at the Centre helped to arrange funding for Tamana delegates to attend two international meetings on autism research in Seattle, United States, in May 2007 and in London, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in 2008.

Expanded areas of activities: While Tamana's broad aims, objectives and activities remain basically the same, Tamana has ventured into the education of underprivileged children. It is utilizing its resources to extend benefits to the largest population possible.

Tamana Kindergarten: In July 2006, Tamana started an afternoon preschool for two- to six-year-olds residing in the slum settlements near Tamana. This is a special endeavour by Tamana to reach out to the children from the lower strata of society and ensure optimum utilization of its facilities. These children will enrol in Government-run primary schools after completing their preschool education. The school presently has 65 students.

School on Wheels: School on Wheels was started to provide free primary education for slum children right at their doorstep. The school is run in Tamana's school buses, which remain unused for several hours. It is a school without land or building, a cost-effective easily-replicated model for spreading

elementary education that is accessible to as many children as possible. The buses are used as classrooms and each bus is fitted with wooden tables, a blackboard, fans, TV and DVD player.

Special school sports council of India: In 2008, Tamana took the initiative to set up a national-level sports council to provide mentally challenged, autistic and multiply disabled children in rural and urban areas the opportunity to participate in sports and adventure activities. The council's members and special education professionals come from all parts of India. The council is a registered society recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. It aims, inter alia, to fill an existing void in sports for the disabled of India and fulfil its mission of mass participation, equal opportunities and integration. By doing so, it will contribute to nation-building.

Sheltered workshops: Tamana set up three sheltered workshops, namely, a workshop for making files and envelopes, a bakery and a laundry, at different branches of Tamana. The goal of sheltered workshops is to provide vocational training along with employment as a step towards economic rehabilitation of the disabled. The students also learn workplace ethics, which helps them find gainful employment in the wider community.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

This includes: (a) the Regional Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) Innovation Fair (Asia), an initiative of the NGO section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Economic and Social Council and the Mumbai Educational Trust in June 2007, in Mumbai, India. The President of Tamana made a presentation at the fair on Tamana's best practices in empowering and building the competencies of disabled youth. Tamana received the United Nations award for implementation of the most innovative project at the round table on strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, through the global partnership for development; (b) Tamana submitted a statement to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2006 in New York under item 2 of the provisional agenda: Creating an environment at the national and international level conducive to generating full and productive environment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development. Tamana would like to attend more United Nations sessions and meetings but scarcity of funds and representatives makes attendance very difficult.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field

This includes the following: (a) Tamana, with financial assistance from the World Health Organization country office for India, conducted an anti-tobacco campaign, in New Delhi in December 2007; (b) Tamana, in partnership with the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum, organized an international meeting and workshop on autism called "Unravelling Autism: Causes, Diagnostics and Intervention" and a workshop called "HANDLE: A Systems Approach to Autism and Sensory Processing Challenges" in September 2006, in New Delhi; (c) Tamana, in partnership with the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum, organized an international workshop called "Get a HANDLE on Neuro-developmental Differences" in November 2008, at Tamana, School of Hope, New Delhi.

Activities in Line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education: The target is to provide special education to differently abled individuals, who are the disadvantaged section of the Indian population. To optimize use of its infrastructure, Tamana provided primary education to children from low social and economic groups in its special schools, schools on wheels and slum schools: (a) 3000 students enrolled in three Tamana schools (152 students have graduated since 2005); (b) 50 students in slum schools; (c) 65 students in afternoon school; (d) 32 students in the national open school programme; (e) 30 Students in School on Wheels.

Activities in support of global principles: (a) World Autism Awareness Day is celebrated every year on 2 April. In 2008, students from a few mainstream schools were invited to participate in poster-making, slogan-writing and writing poems or articles on autism. Prior to the competitions, they were given an orientation talk on autism; (b) World Disability Day: Each year, Tamana collaborated with the United Nations Information Centre, New Delhi, and Concerned Action Now on the organization of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December). It took active part in all the disability-related events organized by the United Nations in New Delhi; (c) Tamana regularly organized large-scale events such as fashion shows, carnivals and music concerts to enhance public awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with special needs and disseminate information on the rights of the disabled. The general public was mobilized to participate in events for the disabled and the disabled were given the opportunity to participate in all areas of life.

Events organised: Shovana Narayan Ballet (February 2006); fashion show (August 2008); sports day (March 2008); carnivals (December 2005) at the Embassy of Sudan (December 2006, December 2007 and December 2008) and at the British High Commissioner's residence; music concerts (January 2007 and December 2007) by visually impaired child singer, Diwakar Sharma; January 2009, piano concert by child prodigy Pragun Sharma.